

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A digital camera having a sequence-photograph mode and other modes, said digital camera comprising:
an image pick-up element for receiving light reflected from an object and outputting image data of the object;
a light-receiving element for outputting data as to a light quantity received from the object, said light-receiving element being different from said image pick-up element;
a first controller for controlling an exposure amount of said image pick-up element for a next frame in a sequence of photographs directly based on the light-quantity data of a previous frame output from said light-receiving element in the sequence-photograph mode; and
a second controller for controlling the exposure amount of said image pick-up element based on the image data output from said image pick-up element in the other modes.
2. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said image pick-up element is a CCD.
3. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 2, wherein said second controller controls a charge accumulation time of said CCD based on the image data output from said image pick-up element to control the exposure amount.
4. (Previously Presented) The digital camera according to claim 3, further comprising a third controller for controlling parameters other than the charge

accumulation time of said CCD, based on the light-quantity data output from said light-receiving element, in the other modes.

5. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 4, further comprising a flash lamp, wherein said third controller controls a quantity of light emission of said flash lamp.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an exposure amount of a digital camera which has a sequence-photograph mode and other modes, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving light reflected from an object and generating image data of the object using an image pick-up element;

receiving light from the object and generating light-quantity data of the object using a light-receiving element which differs from the image pick-up element;

controlling an exposure amount of the image pick-up element for a next frame in a sequence of photographs directly based on the light-quantity data of a previous frame generated by the light-receiving element if the digital camera is in the sequence-photograph mode; and

controlling an exposure amount of the image pick-up element based on the image data generated by the image pick-up element if the digital camera is in the other modes.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the image pick-up element is a CCD.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein a charge accumulation time of the CCD is controlled based on the image data output from the image pick-up element in the other modes to control the exposure amount.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising a step of:

controlling a parameter other than the charge accumulation time of the CCD controlled in accordance with the light-quantity data output from the light-receiving element in the other modes.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the digital camera has a flash lamp, and wherein the parameter other than the charge accumulation time of the CCD, which is controlled in accordance with the light-quantity data output by the light-receiving element, is a quantity of light emission of the flash lamp.

11. (Currently Amended) A digital camera having a sequence-photograph mode and other modes, said digital camera comprising:

an image pick-up element for receiving light reflected from an object and outputting image data of the object;

a light-receiving element for outputting data as to a light quantity received from the object, said light-receiving element being different from said image pick-up element; and

a controller, for controlling an exposure amount of said image pick-up element for a next frame in a sequence of photographs directly based on the light-quantity data of a previous frame output from said light-receiving element in the sequence-photograph mode, and for controlling the exposure amount of said image pick-up element based on the image data output from said image pick-up element in the other modes.

12. (Previously Presented) A digital camera according to claim 11, wherein said image pick-up element is a CCD.

13. (Previously Presented) A digital camera according to claim 12, wherein said controller controls a charge accumulation time of said CCD based on the image data output from said image pick-up element to control the exposure amount.

14. (Previously Presented) A digital camera according to claim 13, wherein said controller controls parameters other than the charge accumulation time of said CCD, based on the light-quantity data output from said light-receiving element, in the other modes.

15. (Previously Presented) A digital camera according to claim 14, further comprising a flash lamp, wherein said controller controls a quantity of light emission of said flash lamp.